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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

D.V.,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
(FEDERAL BUREAU OF
PRISONS); RAY J. GARCIA;
ENRIQUE CHAVEZ; and DOES 1-
25, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.

**COMPLAINT
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

INTRODUCTION

1. Beginning in approximately August 2020, Defendant ENRIQUE CHAVEZ (“CHAVEZ”) a correctional officer at Federal Correctional Institution – Dublin (“FCI Dublin”) owned and operated by Defendant the United States of America (Federal Bureau of Prisons) (“United States”), repeatedly subjected Plaintiff C.V., a minimum-security inmate incarcerated there, to sexual abuse in violation of federal and state law.

2. Congress enacted the Prison Rape Elimination Act in 2003, 34 U.S.C. § 30301, *et seq.* (“PREA”) to establish national standards for preventing precisely

1 this kind of sexual abuse from happening to federal inmates. Under PREA, the U.S.
2 Department of Justice promulgated detailed regulations that provide precise
3 procedures that prisons must follow. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”)
4 adopted PREA policies in response to these regulations.

5 3. Defendant CHAVEZ repeatedly subjected Plaintiff to sexual abuse. In
6 doing so, Defendant violated Plaintiff’s Constitutional rights and California law on
7 gender violence, sexual assault, and common law on battery.

8 4. Defendant CHAVEZ received federal criminal charges for sexual
9 abuse of a ward (18. U.S.C. § 2244(a)(4)) for his abuse of Plaintiff and another
10 inmate. CHAVEZ pled guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 20 months in
11 prison.

12 5. Defendant RAY J. GARCIA (“GARCIA”) was the associate warden at
13 FCI Dublin between December 2018 and November 2020 – the entire period that
14 Plaintiff was being abused by Defendant CHAVEZ. As the warden, GARCIA was
15 responsible for safekeeping, care, protection, discipline, programming, and release
16 of inmates incarcerated at FCI Dublin. GARCIA was also responsible for hiring,
17 training, and supervising/managing staff, and determining operating procedures and
18 policies.

19 6. Defendant GARCIA was also arrested and charged with sexual abuse
20 of a ward based on his sexual abuse of multiple female inmates at FCI Dublin. He
21 was found guilty of three counts of having sexual contact with an incarcerated
22 person, four counts of abusive sexual contact, and one count of lying to the
23 FBI. Defendant GARCIA was sentenced to 5 years and 10 months in prison.

24 7. Defendant GARCIA led training on the Prison Rape and Elimination
25 Act and chaired the audit of FCI Dublin under the PREA. Thus, the man
26 responsible for reporting incidents to the government and teaching inmates how to
27 report rape was in fact a serial rapist of inmates.

28

1 8. Defendant GARCIA knew or should have known that the other
2 correctional officers under his supervision were sexually assaulting inmates.

3 9. Defendant GARCIA knew or should have known that inmates
4 complained about the assaults and were subjected to retaliation. PREA guidelines
5 and FCI Dublin policies and procedures required all inmate complaints of sexual
6 assault and sexual abuse filed or reported internally be reported to Defendant
7 GARCIA. During GARCIA's tenure, complaints of sexual assaults of inmates by
8 correctional officers and/or staff were reported.

9 10. Defendant GARCIA failed to protect the inmates and turned a blind
10 eye. Such behavior set the tone for rape culture at FCI Dublin, garnering Garcia and
11 his subordinate correctional officers and employees the nickname – "the Rape
12 Club."

13 11. As a result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiff suffered numerous
14 emotional injuries and incurred severe personal injuries, which continue to affect
15 her today.

16 12. Plaintiff brings this civil action and asserts claims against CHAVEZ,
17 GARCIA, and DOES 1-25, inclusive, under the Eighth Amendment's Cruel and
18 Unusual Punishment Clause (Excessive Force), California's gender violence and
19 sexual assault statutes (Civil Code §§ 52.4 and 1708.5), and California common
20 law (Battery); (2) against GARCIA and Does 1-25, inclusive, under the Eighth
21 Amendment's Cruel and Unusual Punishment Clause (Deliberate Indifference); (3)
22 against the United States under the Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause
23 (Procedural Due Process); and (4) against the United States under the Federal Tort
24 Claims Act (28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b), 1671-2680) ("FTCA") for various tort claims
25 against all Defendants arising under California common law committed within the
26 course and scope of their federal office or employment.
27
28

PARTIES

18. Plaintiff is an individual and citizen incarcerated in Dublin, California. During the relevant period, Plaintiff was incarcerated at FCI Dublin in Dublin, California.

19. Upon information and belief, Defendant CHAVEZ is an individual and citizen of California, where he is domiciled. During the relevant period, CHAVEZ worked as a cook supervisor/kitchen foreman at FCI Dublin in the Bureau of Prison's (BOP's) employment. While performing the acts and omissions that Plaintiff alleges in this complaint, CHAVEZ was acting within the scope of his official employment, or with the BOP's permission and consent.

20. Upon information and belief, Defendant GARCIA is an individual and citizen of California, where he is domiciled. During the relevant period, GARCIA worked as the associate warden at FCI Dublin in the BOP's employment. While performing the acts and omissions that Plaintiff alleges in this complaint, GARCIA was acting within the scope of his official employment, or with the BOP's permission and consent.

21. Defendant United States is a governmental entity. During the relevant period, the United States, through the BOP, a federal agency, was in possession and control of FCI Dublin, a minimum-security federal prison located in Dublin, California. The United States has waived sovereign immunity as to Plaintiff's tort claims against Defendants, pursuant to FTCA, 28 U.S.C. § 2674.

22. Plaintiff is ignorant as to the true names, identities, and capacities of Defendants DOES 1 through 25, inclusive. Therefore, Plaintiff sues these Defendants under the fictitious designation of DOES 1 through 25. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint once their identities have been ascertained as well as facts giving rise to their liability.

23. Defendants Does 1-25, individually and in their official capacities, at all times relevant herein, were correctional officers and/or employees for the BOP,

1 acting in their official capacity. These defendants include correctional officers in
 2 supervisory positions that participated in training CHAVEZ and other employees,
 3 in the supervision of CHAVEZ and other employees, and in reporting incidents of
 4 sexual abuse to the BOP.

5 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

6 **A. PREA regulations provide mandatory procedures for preventing,** 7 **reporting, investigating, and responding to reports of staff sexual abuse** 8 **of an inmate.**

9 24. PREA regulations require the BOP to have a strict “written policy
 10 mandating zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment
 11 and outlining the [BOP’s] approach to preventing, detecting, and responding to
 12 such conduct,” which the BOP has adopted.¹

13 25. PREA regulations also comprehensively mandate that the BOP and its
 14 correctional staff follow certain policies and procedures when an inmate has
 15 allegedly suffered sexual abuse.

16 26. First and foremost, the BOP “shall require all staff to report
 17 immediately” “any knowledge, suspicion, or information regarding an incident of
 18 sexual abuse” and “staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have
 19 contributed to an incident or retaliation.”² “Apart from reporting to designated
 20 supervisors or officials, staff shall not reveal any information related to a sexual
 21 abuse report to anyone other than to the extent necessary, as specified in agency
 22 policy, to make treatment, investigation, and other security and management
 23 decisions.”³

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 27 ¹ See BOP Program Statement No. 5324.11, at 15 (Jan. 6, 2014); 28 C.F.R. § 115.11(b), (c).

28 ² 28 C.F.R. § 115.61(a).

³ *Id.* § 115.61(b).

27. Regardless of whether a report of sexual abuse is made, if an inmate is “subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse, [BOP employees] shall take immediate action to protect the inmate.”⁴

28. Upon receiving a report of inmate sexual abuse, the facility is required to report it to a designated internal investigator⁵ and conduct an administrative or criminal investigation.⁶ A criminal investigation is required for all allegations of inmate sexual abuse, “unless the allegation does not involve potentially criminal behavior.”⁷ All such referrals must be documented.⁸

29. Given the high risk for retaliation against a reporter or victim, the BOP is required to “protect all inmates and staff who report sexual abuse or sexual harassment or cooperate with sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigations from retaliation by other inmates or staff and shall designate which staff members or departments are charged with monitoring retaliation.”⁹ A prison’s PREA compliance manager must monitor an inmate sexual abuse victim for 90 days after a report of abuse is filed to ensure that he or she is not retaliated against by prison staff.¹⁰

30. The BOP must also provide ongoing access to mental healthcare to all inmates who have been victimized by sexual abuse while detained in the facility.¹¹

31. The BOP is required to train every employee who may have contact with inmates to comply with the above PREA regulations and must “document, through employee signature or electronic verification, that employees understand

⁴ *Id.* § 115.62.

⁵ *Id.* § 115.61(e).

⁶ *Id.* § 115.22(a); *see also Id.* § 115.71.

⁷ *Id.* § 115.22(b).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.* § 115.67(a).

¹⁰ 28 C.F.R. § 115.67(c); BOP Program Statement No. 5324.11, at 44 (Jan. 6, 2014).

¹¹ *Id.* § 115.83(a), (b), (h).

1 the training they have received.”¹² In addition to this general training, specialized
 2 training is required for sexual abuse investigators.¹³

3 32. Where an investigation finds that a staff member has engaged in
 4 sexual abuse, the presumptive disciplinary sanction is termination, and some form
 5 of discipline is required.¹⁴

6 33. Finally, all documentation relating to an allegation of inmate sexual
 7 abuse must be maintained¹⁵ and securely retained for at least ten years after the date
 8 of initial collection.¹⁶

9 34. Defendants repeatedly violated these PREA regulations.

10 **B. CHAVEZ routinely subjected Plaintiff to sexual abuse.**

11 35. In approximately 2020, CHAVEZ was a kitchen supervisor
 12 responsible for supervising inmates.

13 36. Through his authoritative position over Plaintiff, and in violation
 14 of her civil and constitutional rights, CHAVEZ began sexually assaulting
 15 Plaintiff.

16 37. In approximately August of 2020, CHAVEZ began preying upon
 17 Plaintiff by asking her personal questions like if she was married. A few weeks
 18 later, his comments escalated to him making sexual comments like, “I’m a
 19 boobs and feet man.”

20 38. CHAVEZ told Plaintiff she was a “nice looking lady.” His conduct
 21 escalated and he continued telling Plaintiff he liked breasts and feet, and he
 22 asked to see her breasts and feet. Due to the power imbalance, Plaintiff was
 23 pressured to show CHAVEZ her breasts and feet.

24 39. In approximately September 2020, CHAVEZ had Plaintiff in his
 25 office and she showed him her bare foot. The next day in CHAVEZ’s office,

26 ¹² *Id.* § 115.31.

27 ¹³ *Id.* § 115.34.

28 ¹⁴ *Id.* § 115.76.

¹⁵ *Id.* § 115.87(a), (d).

¹⁶ *Id.* § 115.89(a), (d).

1 CHAVEZ looked at Plaintiff's bare breasts, touched them, and told her they
2 were nice.

3 40. CHAVEZ made an "appointment" with Plaintiff on September 25,
4 2020, so he could be alone with her in his office again. That day, CHAVEZ told
5 Plaintiff that the surveillance cameras do not work, and then he kissed her. The
6 following day, CHAVEZ forcibly kissed Plaintiff multiple times.

7 41. In October 2020, CHAVEZ told Plaintiff he was going to make her
8 "cum" for her birthday. He told her, "My fingers are like magic."

9 42. On about October 23, 2020, CHAVEZ locked Plaintiff in the
10 kitchen closet on her birthday, where he digitally penetrated Plaintiff and again
11 touched her breasts, which was unwelcomed, offensive, and a nonconsensual
12 touching. CHAVEZ also forced Plaintiff to touch his penis.

13 43. In approximately the first week of November, CHAVEZ coerced
14 Plaintiff into the kitchen closet again. Again, he kissed Plaintiff, and reached for
15 her vagina, but someone rang the doorbell, ending the assault.

16 44. The sexual encounters and verbal abuse by CHAVEZ took place
17 on multiple occasions and lasted for several months.

18 45. CHAVEZ was able to sexually abuse Plaintiff through active and
19 passive coercion. CHAVEZ manipulated and forced Plaintiff into sexual acts which
20 were unwelcome, offensive, and nonconsensual.

21 46. CHAVEZ's conduct is an example of some of the cruel and unusual
22 punishment that Plaintiff endured at FCI Dublin.

23 **C. FCI Dublin is known for its culture of tolerating sexual misconduct.**

24 47. These facts are either known to us or are based on information and
25 belief. Throughout the last three decades at least, the United States (BOP) has
26 repeatedly ignored incidents of sexual misconduct. Currently, five employees have
27 been indicted by the Department of Justice for sexual misconduct, three have pled
28 guilty, and nine other employees are on administrative leave pending investigation

1 – the most in U.S. history of the Bureau of Prisons. The following examples are just
 2 a fraction of the magnitude of sexual misconduct and violence that transpired at FCI
 3 Dublin:

- 4 • In 1996, BOP officers took three female inmates from FCI
 5 Dublin to a male unit, opened their cell doors, and allowed male
 inmates to rape them.
- 6 • In the late 1990's and early 2000's, four male BOP employees
 7 were either convicted or pled guilty to sexually abusing female
 inmates at FCI Dublin.
- 8 • According to the U.S. Senate Report,¹⁷ in the early 2010s,
 9 approximately a dozen Dublin employees were removed for their
 sexual abuse of inmates, "including one who videotaped himself
 10 having sex with inmates and stored those tapes in a prison locker.
 None were arrested."
- 11 • In 2019, an FCI inmate, Victoria Peterson, filed a suit against
 12 Officer William Martinez for abusing his power and using excessive
 force to have sex with her. She also sued the warden at the time,
 13 Wiley Jenkins, for failing to take disciplinary action against
 14 Martinez and allowing him to continue working at FCI Dublin.
- 15 • In 2019, inmate L.I. filed a claim against former FCI Dublin
 chaplain James Highhouse for sexual assault. Highhouse started
 16 having unwanted physical contact with L.I. in May of 2018, and
 although he was ultimately charged with abuse of L.I., prosecutors
 17 said he engaged in predatory conduct with at least six women
 18 from 2014 to 2019. Highhouse pleaded guilty and was sentenced to
 seven years in prison.
- 19 • Between approximately June of 2020 and September of 2020,
 20 inmate A.R. witnessed Klinger's sexual relationship with another
 inmate. She witnessed Klinger take women into a hidden areas to
 21 have sex with him. Klinger and CO Jaime Perez spoke with sexually
 explicit language toward A.R. CO Perez would bump up against her
 22 and grab her breasts. Officer Perez also took photos of A.R.
- 23 • It was common for male employees at FCI Dublin to stare at
 24 the inmates while they were naked in the shower. For example,
 inmate Y.S. witnessed CO Sergio Saucedo watching her in the
 25 shower between May of 2021 and October of 2021.
- 26 • CO Sergio Saucedo also forced inmate C.C. to undress in front
 27 of him multiple times.

28 ¹⁷ JON OSSOFF & RON JOHNSON, S. REP., SEXUAL ABUSE OF FEMALE INMATES IN FEDERAL PRISONS (2022) (released
 in conjunction with the Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations December 13, 2022 hearing).

- CO Smith (full name unknown) watched another inmate in the shower. She was also sexually assaulted by CO Venegas (full name unknown) when he rubbed his penis up against her back and buttocks.
- Another inmate, A.J., suffered sexual abuse at FCI Dublin between approximately September 2021 and May of 2022. When A.J. arrived, Paramedic Fraser Cohen grabbed her breasts with no chaperone. Later throughout her incarceration, CO Nicholas Ramos consistently watched her in the shower, and both CO Ramos and CO Phillips made her strip, cough, and squat for cavity searches.
- From April through October 2020, Klinger manipulated inmate M.R. into performing oral sex and engaging in forced sexual intercourse.
- Inmate D.S. was forced to engage in oral sex with nurse Jeff Wilson.
- Jeff Wilson forced inmate L.A. to show him her breasts. L.A. was also sexually harassed by CO Saucedo when he forced her to bend over in front of him.
- C.O. Saucedo sexually harassed inmate L.C. by making sexual noises at her and squirting shampoo on her clothing, mimicking ejaculation. On another occasion, CO Saucedo ripped open the shower curtain while L.C. was showering, causing her to fall over so he could see her naked body.
- Another inmate went to TDY (temporary duty) medical employee Jay Alexander (exact name unknown) for medical treatment on her back, and he pulled her underwear down and touched her buttocks and in between her inner thighs.
- Inmate G.M. was preyed upon by Disciplinary Hearing Officer (DHO) David Perez for over three years. David Perez would “make out” with G.M., touch her breasts, caress her, and make her believe he was her boyfriend. When G.M. was on probation, David Perez met up with her and had her touch his genitals.
- Another kitchen foreman, O’Connor (full name unknown) touched inmate N.P.’s buttocks and brushed his hand over her chest.
- CO Jones would tell inmate J.C. to “suck his dick” and he would tell her to “get on your knees.” CO Jones would grab his genitalia and tell her to “look.”

48. Upon information and belief, at least 22 FCI Dublin employees, including those who courageously reported and/or acted to prevent instances of sexual violence, have been reassigned to other prisons. This reassignment got the

1 attention of Congresswoman Jackie Speier, who wrote a letter to the new Director
 2 of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Colette Peters, requesting information about FCI
 3 Dublin's "culture of rampant sexual misconduct and subsequent cover-ups."¹⁸

4 49. In December 2022, the United States Senate reported on the Permanent
 5 Subcommittee on Investigations findings from its investigation into sexual abuse of
 6 female prisoners in custody of the BOP. The report found that in at least four BOP
 7 facilities (FCI Dublin being one of them), multiple women endured ongoing sexual
 8 abuse for months or years. The report's conclusion stated, "BOP failed to detect or
 9 prevent sexual abuse of incarcerated women by male BOP employees. The
 10 agency's poor implementation of the audit program and reporting mechanisms
 11 required by PREA allowed serious, repeated sexual abuse in at least four facilities
 12 to go undetected. BOP's internal affairs practices have failed to hold employees
 13 accountable, and multiple admitted sexual abusers were not criminally prosecuted
 14 as a result. Further, for a decade, BOP failed to respond to this abuse or implement
 15 agency-wide reforms. Moving forward, BOP should consider the Subcommittee's
 16 findings as it works to implement changes to how it handles sexual abuse of female
 17 prisoners by male BOP employees."¹⁹

18 50. Former CO Ross Klinger pled guilty to federal criminal charges for
 19 Sexual Abuse of a Ward (18 U.S.C. § 2243(b)) stemming out of his conduct against
 20 two other inmates and he is awaiting sentencing. CO John Bellhouse currently faces
 21 a six-count Grand Jury indictment for sexually abusing female inmates. His jury
 22 trial is set for June 5, 2023. Additionally, in March of 2022, COs Saucedo and
 23 Nicholas Ramos were placed on leave as a result of sexual misconduct allegations.
 24 CO Ramos committed suicide on August 21, 2022.

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 26
 27 ¹⁸ Fox2KTVU Reporter Lisa Fernandez: <https://www.ktvu.com/news/dublin-prison-guard-says-she-was-forced-out-for-reporting-abuse>.

28 ¹⁹ JON OSSOF & RON JOHNSON, S.REP., SEXUAL ABUSE OF FEMALE INMATES IN FEDERAL PRISONS (2022) (released in conjunction with the Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations December 13, 2022 hearing).

51. CHAVEZ's misconduct did not end with Plaintiff. In 2021, CHAVEZ sexually harassed another inmate, J.C., while was working in the kitchen. He would make comments like, "You're going to suck my dick right now." CHAVEZ promised J.C. a bonus in return for sexual favors, but she never performed sexual favors for him. Chavez would brush his erect penis up against J.C. and said "look, it's hard for you."

52. Defendant CHAVEZ was arrested, pled guilty, and in February of 2023, he was sentenced to 20 months in prison for sexually abusing an inmate.

53. Defendant GARCIA was found guilty of three counts of having sexual contact with an incarcerated person, four counts of abusive sexual contact and one count of lying to the FBI. GARCIA was sentenced to 5 years and 10 months in prison. At the sentencing hearing, GARCIA accepted guilt and stated, "I stand before you a broken man.... I couldn't be more ashamed. I couldn't be more sorry."

54. The USA failed to provide the sexual abuse victims with counseling services or victim advocates. The victims were retaliated against with interviews and examinations after filing their Federal Tort Claims. As a result of reporting the misconduct, the victims were put in the Solitary Housing Unit (SHU), received daily room tosses, and were placed on lock downs. The victims also had their phone calls and visitations taken away, their legal mail was read, and their legal phone calls were monitored.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

CLAIM ONE

EIGHTH AMENDMENT, CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT –

SEXUAL ABUSE

(CHAVEZ, GARCIA, and DOES 1-25, inclusive, in their individual capacities)

55. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

1 56. Plaintiff brings this claim under the Cruel and Unusual Punishment
2 Clause of the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution against CHAVEZ,
3 GARCIA, and DOES 1-25, inclusive, in their individual capacities.

4 57. At all material times CHAVEZ, GARCIA, and DOES 1-25, inclusive,
5 were federal employees of the BOP at FCI Dublin, acting under the color of federal
6 authority with respect to the allegations in this complaint.

7 58. CHAVEZ violated Plaintiff's right to be free from cruel and unusual
8 punishment by repeatedly sexually abusing her while she was incarcerated as a
9 minimum-security inmate at FCI Dublin.

10 59. CHAVEZ's sexual abuse of Plaintiff occurred under coercive
11 circumstances.

12 60. By intentionally subjecting Plaintiff to sexual acts, CHAVEZ acted
13 maliciously, in a manner that is deeply offensive to human dignity and void of any
14 penological justification.

15 61. The inhumane conditions of confinement caused by CHAVEZ's
16 repeated sexual abuse caused Plaintiff severe physical, mental, and emotional
17 harm.

18 62. GARCIA was the associate warden in 2018-2020, and during the
19 entire period that Plaintiff was being abused by CHAVEZ. As the warden,
20 GARCIA was responsible for safekeeping, care, protection, discipline,
21 programming, and release of inmates incarcerated at FCI Dublin. GARCIA was
22 also responsible for hiring, training, and supervising/managing staff, and
23 determining operating procedures and policies.

24 63. GARCIA was also sexually abusing wards at FCI Dublin, and in his
25 capacity as warden, thus ratified CHAVEZ's behavior. GARCIA led PREA training
26 and chaired the audit of FCI Dublin under the PREA. Thus, the man responsible for
27 teaching inmates how to report rape was in fact a serial rapist of inmates.

28

64. GARCIA accepted guilt for his sexual abuse of other inmates, and GARCIA knew or should have known that CHAVEZ was sexually abusing Plaintiff.

65. CHAVEZ, GARCIA, and DOES 1-25, inclusive, acted with malice and oppression, and their conduct constitutes a reckless or callous disregard of Plaintiff's rights, entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages.

66. Plaintiff seeks the following relief for her injuries: (a) nominal damages resulting from the repeated violations of her personal dignity and from physical injury; (b) non-economic damages consisting of past physical injury, past and future mental pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress, and for offenses to her personal dignity; and (c) punitive damages.

CLAIM TWO

GENDER VIOLENCE (Cal. Civ. Code § 52.4)

(Against CHAVEZ in his individual capacity)

67. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

68. Plaintiff brings this claim for gender violence under California Civil Code § 52.4 against CHAVEZ in his individual capacity.

69. Under California statute, any person subjected to gender violence may bring a civil action for damages against the responsible party. Gender violence is a form of sex discrimination that includes a physical intrusion or invasion of a sexual nature under coercive conditions.

70. CHAVEZ discriminated against Plaintiff based on her female gender when he repeatedly sexually abused her, by physically subjecting her to sexual acts, under the coercive conditions that were present between them.

71. CHAVEZ's actions occurred outside the course and scope of his employment. Their actions and judgments in sexually abusing Plaintiff were so far below the acceptable standard of custodial conduct, as exemplified by PREA

1 regulations and BOP policy prohibiting sexual abuse, that they could not have been
2 making a policy judgment in their decision to sexually abuse Plaintiff.

3 72. By repeatedly subjecting Plaintiff to sexual acts CHAVEZ caused her
4 to suffer physical, mental, and emotional injuries, as well as injuries to her personal
5 dignity.

6 73. CHAVEZ acted with malice and oppression and his conduct
7 constitutes a reckless or callous disregard of Plaintiff's rights, entitling her to
8 punitive damages.

9 74. Plaintiff seeks the following relief for her injuries: (a) nominal
10 damages resulting from the repeated violations of her personal dignity and from
11 physical injury; (b) non-economic damages consisting of past physical injury, past
12 and future mental pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress, and for
13 offenses to her personal dignity; and (c) punitive damages.

14 75. Plaintiff also seeks attorneys' fees and costs, as expressly authorized
15 by statute.

16 **CLAIM THREE**

17 **SEXUAL ASSAULT (Cal. Civ. Code § 1708.5)**

18 **(Against CHAVEZ in his individual capacity)**

19 76. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference every allegation
20 contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

21 77. Plaintiff brings this claim for sexual assault under California Civil
22 Code § 1708.5 against CHAVEZ in his individual capacity.

23 78. CHAVEZ violated Plaintiff's statutory right to be free from sexual
24 assault by repeatedly sexually abusing her while she was incarcerated as a
25 minimum-security inmate at FCI Dublin.

26 79. CHAVEZ's sexual abuse of Plaintiff occurred under coercive
27 circumstances.

28

1 80. CHAVEZ's sexual abuse of Plaintiff, an inmate in the custody of his
2 employer, was deeply offensive to her personal dignity, would offend a person of
3 ordinary sensitivity, and was unwarranted by the social usages in prison when the
4 contact was made.

5 81. Given the deeply offensive nature of these sexual acts and lack of any
6 possible penological justification for these sexual acts CHAVEZ must have
7 subjected Plaintiff to these sexual acts with the intent to cause a harmful or
8 offensive contact with Plaintiff's person.

9 82. By intentionally subjecting Plaintiff to sexual acts CHAVEZ acted
10 maliciously, in a manner that is deeply offensive to human dignity and void of any
11 penological justification.

12 83. CHAVEZ's actions occurred outside the course and scope of their
13 employment. His actions and judgment in sexually abusing Plaintiff were so far
14 below the acceptable standard of custodial conduct, as exemplified by PREA
15 regulations and BOP policy prohibiting sexual abuse, that he could not have been
16 making a policy judgment in their decision to sexually abuse Plaintiff.

17 84. By repeatedly subjecting Plaintiff to sexual acts CHAVEZ caused her
18 to suffer physical, mental, and emotional injuries, as well as injuries to her personal
19 dignity.

20 85. CHAVEZ acted with malice and oppression, and his conduct
21 constitutes a reckless or callous disregard of Plaintiff's rights, entitling her to
22 punitive damages.

23 86. Plaintiff seeks the following relief for her injuries: (a) nominal
24 damages resulting from the repeated violations of her personal dignity and from
25 physical injury; (b) non-economic damages consisting of past physical injury, past
26 and future mental pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress, and for
27 offenses to her personal dignity; and (c) punitive damages.

28

CLAIM FOUR

BATTERY (California common law)

(Against CHAVEZ in his individual capacity)

87. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

88. Plaintiff brings this claim for battery under California common law against CHAVEZ in his individual capacity.

89. CHAVEZ committed battery against Plaintiff by repeatedly sexually abusing her while she was incarcerated as a minimum-security inmate at FCI Dublin.

90. CHAVEZ's sexual abuse of Plaintiff occurred under coercive circumstances.

91. For these reasons CHAVEZ's sexual abuse of Plaintiff, an inmate in the custody of his employer, was deeply offensive to her personal dignity, would offend a person of ordinary sensitivity, and was unwarranted by the social usages in prison when the contact was made.

92. Given the deeply offensive nature of these sexual acts and lack of any possible penological justification for these sexual acts CHAVEZ must have subjected Plaintiff to these sexual acts with the intent to cause a harmful or offensive contact with Plaintiff's person.

93. By intentionally subjecting Plaintiff to sexual acts CHAVEZ acted maliciously in a manner that is deeply offensive to human dignity and void of any penological justification.

94. CHAVEZ's actions occurred outside the course and scope of their employment. His actions and judgments in sexually abusing Plaintiff were so far below the acceptable standard of custodial conduct, as exemplified by PREA regulations and BOP policy prohibiting sexual abuse, that he could not have been making a policy judgment in his decision to sexually abuse Plaintiff.

1 95. By repeatedly subjecting Plaintiff to sexual acts, CHAVEZ caused her
2 to suffer physical, mental, and emotional injuries, as well as injuries to her personal
3 dignity.

4 96. CHAVEZ acted with malice and oppression, and his conduct
5 constitutes a reckless or callous disregard of Plaintiff's rights, entitling her to
6 punitive damages.

7 97. Plaintiff seeks the following relief for her injuries: (a) nominal
8 damages resulting from the repeated violations of her personal dignity and from
9 physical injury; (b) non-economic damages consisting of past physical injury, past
10 and future mental pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress, and for
11 offenses to her personal dignity; and (c) punitive damages.

12 **CLAIM FIVE**

13 **INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

14 **(California common law)**

15 **(Against CHAVEZ in his individual capacity)**

16 98. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference every allegation
17 contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

18 99. Plaintiff brings this claim for intentional infliction of emotional
19 distress under California common law against CHAVEZ in his individual capacity.

20 100. CHAVEZ engaged in outrageous conduct by repeatedly subjecting
21 Plaintiff to sexual acts while she was incarcerated as an inmate in his employer's
22 custody. CHAVEZ abused his authority over Plaintiff and his power to affect her
23 interests in a manner that was beyond all bounds of decency and must be regarded
24 as atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized society.

25 101. CHAVEZ's sexual abuse caused Plaintiff to suffer, and continue to
26 suffer, severe emotional distress, including fear, depression, and anxiety. This
27 distress was so substantial and enduring that no reasonable person in a civilized
28 society should be expected to endure it.

102. CHAVEZ intended to cause Plaintiff this emotional distress because he knew that emotional distress was certain to result from his sexual abuse of an inmate.

103. CHAVEZ's actions occurred outside the course and scope of his employment. His actions and judgments in sexually abusing Plaintiff were so far below the acceptable standard of custodial conduct, as exemplified by PREA regulations and BOP policy prohibiting sexual abuse, that he could not have been making a policy judgment in his decision to sexually abuse Plaintiff.

104. CHAVEZ acted with malice and oppression, entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages.

105. Plaintiff seeks the following relief for her injuries: (a) nominal damages resulting from the repeated violations of her personal dignity and from physical injury; (b) non-economic damages consisting of past physical injury, past and future mental pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress, and for offenses to her personal dignity; and (c) punitive damages.

CLAIM SIX

NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

(California common law)

(Against CHAVEZ in his individual capacity)

106. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

107. Plaintiff brings this claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress under California common law against CHAVEZ in his individual capacity.

108. CHAVEZ had a special and heightened duty of care to Plaintiff as her jailer that required him to protect her against reasonably foreseeable emotional harm, including from sexual abuse. PREA regulations and BOP policy prohibiting sexual abuse confirm this special and heightened duty.

1 109. Alternatively, CHAVEZ had a general duty of care with respect to
2 Plaintiff.

3 110. CHAVEZ engaged in negligent conduct and in a willful violation of
4 statutory standards. On multiple occasions CHAVEZ breached his duty of care and
5 the PREA regulations by purposefully and willingly subjecting Plaintiff to sexual
6 acts. CHAVEZ's breach of his duty of care and willful violations of statutory
7 standards were directed at Plaintiff.

8 111. By repeatedly subjecting Plaintiff to sexual acts CHAVEZ proximately
9 caused her to suffer, and to continue to suffer, serious and severe emotional
10 distress.

11 112. Plaintiff's emotional reactions are not an abnormal response to her
12 sexual abuse. A reasonable person would be unable to cope with the mental distress
13 caused by being sexually abused by a correctional officer who had a duty to protect
14 her from such abuse. No reasonable person in a civilized society should be expected
15 to endure that kind of mental distress.

16 113. CHAVEZ's actions occurred outside the course and scope of his
17 employment. His actions and judgments in sexually abusing Plaintiff were so far
18 below the acceptable standard of custodial conduct, as exemplified by PREA
19 regulations and BOP policy prohibiting sexual abuse, that he could not have been
20 making a policy judgment in his decision to sexually touch Plaintiff.

21 114. CHAVEZ acted with malice and oppression, and his conduct
22 constitutes a reckless or callous disregard of Plaintiff rights, entitling her to punitive
23 damages.

24 115. Plaintiff seeks the following relief for her injuries: (a) nominal
25 damages resulting from the repeated violations of her personal dignity and from
26 physical injury; (b) non-economic damages consisting of past physical injury, past
27 and future mental pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress, and for
28 offenses to her personal dignity; and (c) punitive damages.

CLAIM SEVEN

**EIGHTH AMENDMENT, DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE – FAILURE
TO PROTECT**

(Against GARCIA and DOES 1-25, inclusive, in their individual capacities)

116. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

117. Plaintiff brings this claim against GARCIA and DOES 1-25, inclusive, in their individual capacities under the Cruel and Unusual Punishment Clause of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

118. At all material times, GARCIA and DOES 1-25, inclusive, were federal employees, acting under the color of federal authority with respect to the allegations set forth above.

119. GARCIA and DOES 1-25, inclusive, deprived Plaintiff of her right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment by failing to protect her from a substantial risk of serious harm from sexual abuse by CHAVEZ by acting in conscious disregard of that known risk.

120. GARCIA, as the warden, ratified CHAVEZ's conduct by engaging in the same or similar acts as CHAVEZ with other inmates at FCI Dublin. Therefore, GARCIA purposefully denied Plaintiff protection from the known and substantial risk of serious harm of CHAVEZ's sexual abuse.

121. Based on his position and behavior in the prison, GARCIA knew or should have known that CHAVEZ was abusing Plaintiff.

122. GARCIA and DOES 1-25, inclusive, failed to take immediate action to protect Plaintiff, including by separating her from CHAVEZ, in violation of 28 C.F.R. § 115.62.

123. GARCIA and DOES 1-25, inclusive, did not take reasonable, available measures to abate the risk of sexual abuse to Plaintiff, and to guarantee her safety,

1 even though a reasonable officer in the circumstances would have appreciated the
2 obviously high degree of risk involved.

3 124. GARCIA and DOES 1-25, inclusive, therefore acted with deliberate
4 indifference to substantial risk of sexual abuse in violation of the Eighth
5 Amendment, subjected Plaintiff to dangerous and debasing conditions of
6 confinement, including sexual abuse, and violated her fundamental rights to safe
7 and humane confinement. This cruel and unusual punishment caused Plaintiff
8 physical, mental, emotional, and constitutional injuries.

9 125. GARCIA and DOES 1-25's, inclusive, deliberate indifference was
10 malicious, oppressive, reckless, and callous, entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages.

11 126. Plaintiff seeks the following relief for her injuries: (a) nominal
12 damages resulting from the repeated violations of her personal dignity and from
13 physical injury; (b) non-economic damages consisting of past physical injury, past
14 and future mental pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress, and for
15 offenses to her personal dignity; and (c) punitive damages.

16 **FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT ADMINISTRATIVE EXHAUSTION**

17 127. Claims Eight and Nine, below, are asserted against the United States.

18 128. Plaintiff has exhausted these claims against the United States under the
19 FTCA.

20 129. Plaintiff submitted a "Claim for Damage Injury, or Death" to the BOP
21 on October 4, 2022, for "permanent injuries, mental anguish, embarrassment,
22 humiliation, pain, distress, and damages" as a PREA victim involving staff at FCI
23 Dublin in the sum of \$5,000,000.00.

24 130. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's FTCA claim is attached hereto as
25 **Exhibit A.**

26 131. The BOP received her administrative claim on October 4, 2022.

27 132. A true and correct copy of the BOP's acknowledgment is attached
28 hereto as **Exhibit B.**

133. By April 4, 2023, six months after the BOP received Plaintiff's administrative claim, the BOP has neither accepted nor rejected the claims. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2675(a), Plaintiff elects to consider this failure to act as a final denial of her claim.

CLAIM EIGHT

NEGLIGENCE (FTCA, California common law)

(Against the United States)

134. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

135. Plaintiff brings this claim against the United States under the FTCA based on the actions and/or omissions of CHAVEZ and GARCIA taken while working at FCI Dublin in their capacity as employees of the BOP and acting within the scope of their employment, with the permission and consent of the United States.

136. At all material times, Plaintiff was an inmate in the custody of the BOP, a federal agency of the United States in possession and control of FCI Dublin.

137. **Duty.** CHAVEZ and GARCIA had a custodial duty, as well as a mandatory statutory obligation under PREA regulations and BOP policy, to protect inmates incarcerated by the United States from foreseeable harm, including, but not limited to, harm from sexual abuse.

138. The BOP's Personal Conduct rules for staff disallow any sexual activity with an inmate, and state that an employee may not allow another person to engage in such behavior. It explicitly states that there is no such thing as consensual sex between staff and inmates.

139. Alternatively, CHAVEZ and GARCIA had a general duty of care to Plaintiff.

140. CHAVEZ's sexual abuse of Plaintiff was reasonably foreseeable to GARCIA because CHAVEZ's conduct made it obvious he was sexually abusing Plaintiff.

141. **Breach of duty—inadequate supervision.** GARCIA failed to supervise and operate FCI Dublin in a manner that would have prevented CHAVEZ's ongoing sexual abuse of Plaintiff.

142. GARCIA did not take reasonable, available measures to abate the risk of sexual abuse to Plaintiff, and to guarantee her safety, even though a reasonable administrator would have complied with PREA regulations regarding proper prison operations, including adequately monitoring work programming and correctional officer assignments.

143. CHAVEZ's sexual abuse of Plaintiff occurred as the direct and proximate result of the supervisory negligence of GARCIA.

144. **Injuries and relief sought.** Plaintiff suffered a physical violation, a violation of her liberty interest in being free from sexual abuse, injury from being denied freedom of movement and programming, and severe mental and emotional anxiety and distress, and will continue to suffer severe mental and emotional anxiety and distress in the future.

145. Plaintiff seeks the following relief for her injuries: non-economic damages consisting of past physical injury, past and future mental pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress, and for offenses to her personal dignity.

CLAIM NINE

NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

(FTCA, California law)

(Against the United States)

146. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

1 147. Plaintiff brings this claim against the United States under the FTCA
2 based on the actions and/or omissions of CHAVEZ and GARCIA which were taken
3 while working at FCI Dublin in their capacity as employees of the BOP and acting
4 within the scope of their employment, with United States' permission and consent.

5 148. At all material times, Plaintiff was an inmate in the custody of the
6 BOP, a federal agency of the United States in possession and control of FCI
7 Dublin.

8 149. **Duty.** CHAVEZ and GARCIA had a custodial duty, as well as a
9 mandatory statutory obligation under PREA regulations and BOP policy, to protect
10 inmates incarcerated by the United States from foreseeable harm, including, but not
11 limited to, harm from sexual abuse.

12 150. **Breach of duty—inadequate supervision.** GARCIA failed to
13 supervise and operate FCI Dublin in a manner that would have prevented
14 CHAVEZ's ongoing sexual abuse of Plaintiff.

15 151. GARCIA did not take reasonable, available measures to abate the risk
16 of sexual abuse to Plaintiff, and to guarantee her safety, even though a reasonable
17 administrator would have complied with PREA regulations regarding proper prison
18 operations, including adequately monitoring work programming and correctional
19 officer assignments.

20 152. CHAVEZ's sexual abuse of Plaintiff occurred as the direct and
21 proximate result of the supervisory negligence of GARCIA.

22 153. **Injuries and relief sought.** CHAVEZ and GARCIA's actions and
23 omissions caused Plaintiff to suffer, and continue to suffer, serious and severe
24 emotional distress, including fear, depression, and anxiety, because of being
25 repeatedly sexually abused.

26 154. Plaintiff's emotional reaction was not an abnormal response to her
27 sexual abuse. A reasonable person would be unable to cope with the emotional
28 distress caused by being sexually abused by a correctional officer, who had a duty

1 to protect her from such abuse. Plaintiff's distress was of such a substantial and
 2 enduring quality that no reasonable person in a civilized society should be expected
 3 to endure it.

4 155. By reason of the United States' negligent infliction of emotional
 5 distress, through GARCIA's and CHAVEZ's conduct, Plaintiff has suffered severe
 6 emotional distress, and will continue to suffer severe mental and emotional anxiety
 7 and distress.

8 156. Plaintiff seeks nominal and compensatory damages for these
 9 violations.

10 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

11 Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all claims so triable.

12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays that this Court grant the following
 14 relief:

- 15 1. Nominal damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- 16 2. Compensatory damages for injuries caused by a violation of her
 17 constitutional rights and personal dignity, physical injury, pain,
 18 discomfort, fears, anxiety, and other mental and emotional distress
 19 suffered by Plaintiff and for similar suffering reasonably certain to be
 20 experienced in the future, in an amount to be determined at trial;
- 21 3. Punitive damages for malice, oppression, and reckless and
 22 callous disregard of Plaintiff's rights;
- 23 4. An award to Plaintiff of reasonable costs; and
- 24 5. An award to Plaintiff of reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to
 25 28 U.S.C. § 2678 and Cal. Civ. Code § 52.4; and

1 6. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem fit and
2 proper.

3
4 Dated: May 2, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

THE PRIDE LAW FIRM

/s/ Jessica K. Pride

Jessica K. Pride

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Attorneys for Plaintiff